

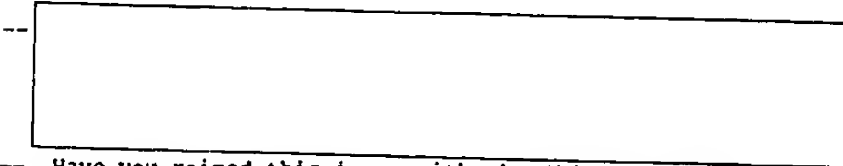
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1988/06/22

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RELEASED IN PART
B1, A5

- Would appreciate your thoughts on the role the PRC is playing in the Middle East. E:0080
- China's sale of CSS-2 IRBM's to Saudi Arabia heightened concern in Washington and elsewhere over the danger of ballistic missile proliferation, especially in regional hot spots like the Middle East.
- Chinese responded to our expressions of concern over CSS-2 sale by providing assurances that: 1) China does not sell nuclear weapons to any country including Saudi Arabia, and 2) the CSS-2 missiles they have provided Saudi Arabia are armed with non-nuclear warheads.
- Despite these assurances, we continue to believe the proliferation of ballistic missile systems and related technology is likely to have a destabilizing effect on any region where they are introduced.
- We will continue to engage the PRC and others in a dialogue on a responsible approach to the problem of missile proliferation.



B1,A5

- Have you raised this issue with the Chinese? What was their response?

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